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ABSTRACT

This report discusses the Allied Health programs at Community College of Philadelphia (CCP): (1) Clinical Laboratory Technician; (2) Dental Assisting Hygiene; (3) Dental Assisting Certificate; (4) Diagnostic Medical Imaging; (5) Dietetic Technician; (6) Health Information Technology; (7) Medical Assisting and Office Management; (8) Nursing; and (9) Respiratory Care Technology. During spring 2000, 456 CCP students were enrolled in these programs, 200 of whom were in Nursing (the most popular) and 42 of whom were in Respiratory Therapy (second most popular). Eighty-five percent of students enrolled during this semester were females, and there was a nearly equal percentage of black (41.3%) and white (46.5%) students. Fifty-seven percent of the allied health students were under 30 years of age. Between 1967 and 2000, 5,677 students graduated from the allied health programs, half of whom were from Nursing. After graduating, students earned an average salary of $36,232 in 1999. Other graduates continued their studies. On average, 25% pursued their studies at another college or university within one year of graduation. Graduates have also performed very well on certification exams. Pass rates have consistently been higher than national averages for nearly all programs. Document contains charts and figures. (JA)

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Impact of Community College of Philadelphia Allied Health Programs on the Philadelphia Region
Report #117
November 2000

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Impact of Community College of Philadelphia Allied Health Programs on the Philadelphia Region

November 2000

Allied Health Programs at Community College of Philadelphia

Since 1965 Community College of Philadelphia has provided the citizens of Philadelphia with an affordable, comprehensive, urban educational experience. Community College of Philadelphia is the only public institution of higher education in the City of Philadelphia. The College presently offers eight Allied Health programs that lead to an A.A.S. degree and one program that terminates in a certificate. The following are brief descriptions of these programs.

Clinical Laboratory Technician - Clinical Lab Technician graduates are prepared to begin work as technicians in hospital laboratories, physician offices, pharmaceutical companies, and private laboratories. The Clinical Laboratory Technician program at Community College of Philadelphia is accredited by the National Accrediting Agency for Clinical Laboratory Sciences. Graduates of this program are eligible to take a national certification examination offered by the American Society of Clinical Pathology and the National Certification Agency in Clinical Laboratory Science.

Dental Assisting Hygiene - Graduates of the Dental Assisting Hygiene program are prepared as oral health educators and clinicians. Dental Assisting Hygiene graduates are eligible to take the North East Regional Board Examination and the Dental Hygiene National Board to obtain Dental Hygiene licensure.

Dental Assisting Certificate - The curriculum prepares graduates to be chair side dental assistants. The Dental Assisting Certificate Program enables graduates to continue their education in dental hygiene. Students are eligible to take the Dental Assisting National Board Examination to become Certified Dental Assistants.

Diagnostic Medical Imaging - Graduates of this program learn the entry-level skills to use ionizing radiation to assist in the diagnosis and treatment of disease and injury. The Joint Review Committee on Education in Radiologic Technology has accredited the Program and Diagnostic Medical Imaging graduates are eligible to take the national certifying examination of the American Registry of Radiologic Technology.

Dietetic Technician - Graduates of this program are health care professionals who have technical knowledge and skills to assist the dietitian, nutritionist or food service director in assessment, planning, implementation and evaluation of foodservices and nutrition care. As nutrition care providers, dietetic technicians participate in the delivery of nutrition care and medical nutrition therapy for patients, residents, and clients in hospitals, nursing homes, rehabilitation centers, and outpatient centers. Some technicians may be employed in management positions and have direct responsibility for the foodservice operation and delivery of food and nutrition to clients. Other technicians may be employed in community based positions as a nutrition coordinator/advisor which requires them to assess needs of targeted audiences, organizations, and agencies, then plan, present and monitor nutrition programs and services. Additional opportunities for dietetic technicians exist in the area of health promotion, fitness and wellness programs.

In addition to completing this career track program and being eligible to take the registration exam to become a Registered Dietetic Technician, graduates can also continue their education. The Dietetic Technician Curriculum at the College is the only program of its kind in Pennsylvania.

Health Information Technology - Graduates of the Health Information Technology program are prepared to work in the medical/health records or related departments of hospitals, clinics, extended care facilities, or other types of health care institutions. Community College of Philadelphia's Health Information Technology Program is accredited by the American Health Information Management Association and the Committee on Allied Health Education and Accreditation of the American Medical Association. Community College of Philadelphia is one of two higher education institutions in Philadelphia that offers degrees in this field.

Medical Assisting and Office Management - The Medical Assisting and Office Management program prepares students to become valuable members of the allied health services team. By blending clinical, laboratory, and management training, graduates of this program are prepared to work in physicians' offices, clinics, or hospitals. This program qualifies graduates to take the national certification examination of the American Association of Medical Assistants. The Medical Assisting and Office Management program is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs on recommendation of the Curriculum Review Board of the American Association of Medical Assistants Endowment.

Nursing - Graduates of the Nursing program are prepared to sit for the national licensure examination to become a Registered Nurse and assume beginning staff nurse positions in hospitals, long-term care facilities, and community agencies. Community College of Philadelphia's Nursing program is accredited by the National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission and approved by the Pennsylvania State Board of Nursing.

Respiratory Care Technology - Graduates of this program are prepared to assume advanced respiratory care responsibilities as Registered Respiratory Therapists, performing both diagnostic and therapeutic procedures up to and including operation of life support equipment. Graduates are eligible to sit for all credentialing examinations administered by the National Board for Respiratory Care including specialty exams in Pulmonary Function Technology and Pediatrics/Perinatal Respiratory Care and are eligible for Pennsylvania State Certification. The College offers the only Respiratory Care program in the City.

Students Served by the College

During Spring 2000, 456 Community College of Philadelphia students were enrolled in the College's Allied Health programs. Figure 1 contains the numbers of students enrolled in each program during this term.

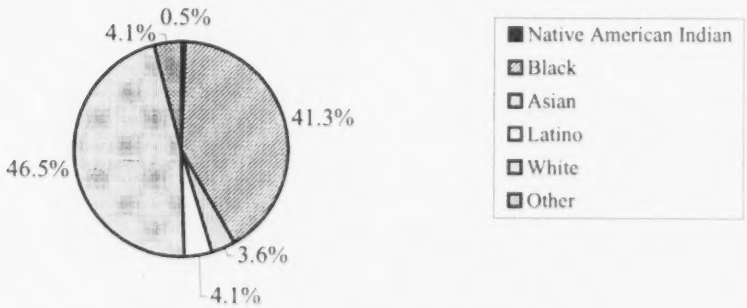
Figure 1

Enrollments in Allied Health Programs During the Spring 2000 Semester

Clinical Lab Technology	30
Dental Assisting	26
Dental Hygiene	25
Diagnostic Medical Imaging	27
Dietary Manager[1]	14
Dietetic Technician	16
Health Information Technology	33
Medical Assisting	41
Nursing	200
Respiratory Therapy	42
All Allied Health Programs Combined	454

Eight-five percent of students enrolled in Allied Health programs during the Spring 2000 semester were females and 15% were males. Students in the Allied Health programs at the College reflect the racial /ethnic diversity of the City of Philadelphia. During Spring 2000, there were nearly equal percentages of Black (41.3%) and White (46.5%) students (Figure 2).

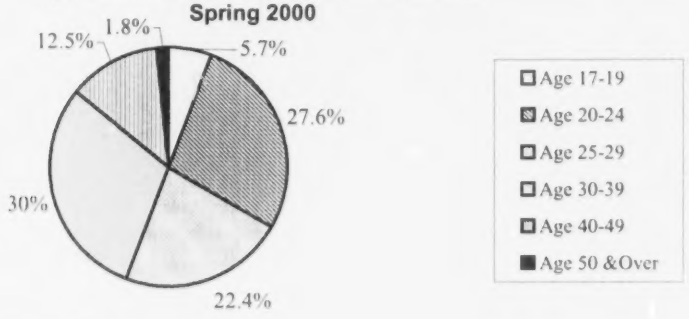
Figure 2
Racial/Ethnic Distribution of Allied Health Students
Spring 2000



[1] Since the Dietary Manager Program is being phased out, it was not described in the introductory section of this report. Presently, new students are not being admitted to the college-credit program.

All age categories were represented among Spring 2000 Allied Health students (Figure 3). Fifty-seven percent of the allied health students during the semester were under 30 while over one-third were 30 years of age and older.

Figure 3
Age Distribution of Allied Health Students
Spring 2000



During its 34-year existence, the College has awarded 5677 Allied Health-related associate degrees and certificates. Figure 4 contains the numbers of graduates in Allied Health-related programs since 1967, the first year that Allied Health degrees were awarded by the College.

Figure 4

CCP Graduates in Allied Health Programs
1967-2000

Clinical Laboratory Technology	298
Dental Assisting	399
Dental Hygiene	319
Diagnostic Medical Imaging	309
Dietetic Technician	186
Health Information Technology	401
Medical Assisting & Office Management	255
Dietary Manager	210
Nursing	2827
Respiratory Care Technology	473
Total	5677

Many of these graduates would have been unable to pursue higher education if the opportunities provided by the College did not exist. In annual surveys, approximately 36 % of graduates from the last several years indicated they would have been unable to participate in higher education were it not for Community College of Philadelphia.

Student Accomplishments

After earning certificates or associates degrees, many Allied Health graduates continue their studies. On average, 25 % of the Colleges' recent Allied Health graduates pursued their studies at another college or university within one year of graduation. Many of these graduates attend institutions within the Philadelphia region (Figure 5).

Figure 5

Higher Education Institutions Community College of Philadelphia Allied Health Graduates Were Most Likely to Transfer to Over the Last Four Years

Drexel University
Episcopol Hospital
Frankford Hospital
Gwynedd Mercy College
Holy Family College
Immaculata College
LaSalle University
MCP Hahneman University
Presbyterian Hospital
Temple University
Thomas Jefferson University
West Chester University

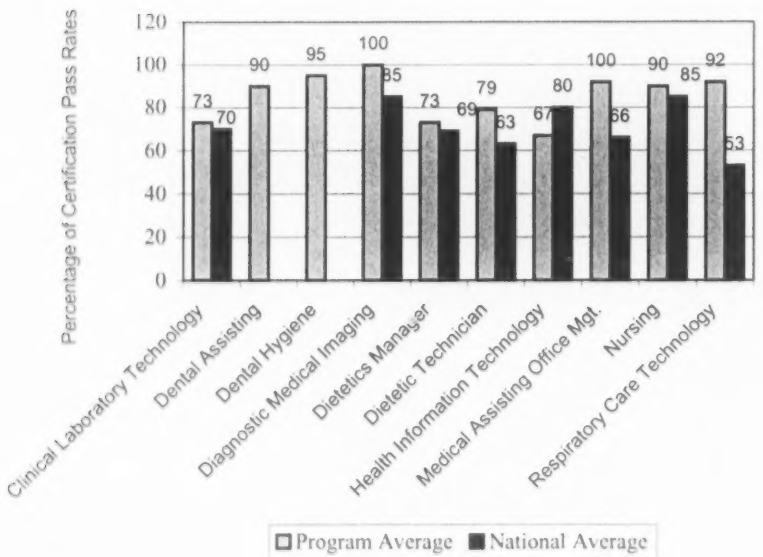
Several collaborative projects have been designed to provide Allied Health students at the College with seamless opportunities to continue their education. For example, Project Impart is a partnership between the College, Thomas Jefferson University, and the National Institutes of

Health that facilitates the acquisition of baccalaureate degrees for graduates of the College's Nursing program.

The Colleges' graduates have performed very well on certification exams. Pass rates for Community College of Philadelphia graduates have consistently been higher than national averages for nearly all programs (Figure 6).

Figure 6

Certification Pass Rates[2]
Community College of Philadelphia and National Averages



[2] In most cases, pass rates are an average for 1998 and 1999. Program averages for Dental Assisting and Dental Hygiene are based on only 1999. National averages for Dental Assisting and Dental Hygiene are not available. The national average for Diagnostic Medical Imaging for 1998 is not available; the average listed above is based on only 1999.

After earning their degrees, a majority of Allied Health graduates remain in the Philadelphia region as active contributing members of the regional economy. Within one year of leaving the College, approximately 90% of Allied Health graduates were employed in the Philadelphia area, 85% in positions directly related to their Community College of Philadelphia studies. Those not employed had typically transferred to other colleges and universities.

Hospitals, long term care facilities, subacute care/rehabilitation centers, and private physician and dental offices are typical employers who have hired recent Community College of Philadelphia Allied Health graduates (Figure 7).

Figure 7

Employers[3] of Recent Community College of Philadelphia Allied Health Graduates

Abington Memorial Hospital
Albert Einstein Medical Center (JHS)[4]
Boulevard Nursing Home
Bryn Mawr Hospital
Cathedral Village
Cheltenham Nursing and Rehabilitation Center
Chestnut Hill Hospital
Children's Hospital of Philadelphia
Episcopal Hospital (TUHS)[5]
Evangelical Home
Fox Chase Cancer Center
Frankford Health Care System (JHS)
Graduate Hospital (TENET)
Hahnemann University Hospital (TENET)
Holy Family Nursing Home
Immaculate Mary Home
Jeanes Hospital (TUHS)
Lankenau Hospital
Lower Bucks Hospital (TUHS)
Magee Rehabilitation Center (JHS)
Masonic Home of Philadelphia
Mayo Nursing and Convalescent Center
Medical College of Pennsylvania (TENET)
Mercy Fitzgerald Hospital (MHS)[6]
Neumann Medical Center (TUHS)
North Pennsylvania Hospital
Northeastern Hospital (TUHS)
Northwestern Health Services
Parkview Hospital (TENET)
Paul's Run Retirement Community
Pennsylvania Hospital (UPHS)
Philadelphia Nursing Home
Philadelphia Protestant Home
Presbyterian Medical Center (UPHS)
Quadrangle
Redeemer Health System
Sacred Heart Manor
Saunders House
Service Master, Inc.
Simpson House
St. Agnes Medical Center
St. Christopher's Hospital (TENET)
St. Ignatius Nursing Home
St. Joseph's Manor
Stapley in Germantown
Temple Continuing Care Center
Temple University Hospital (TUHS)
The Fountains at Logan Square

[3] The employers listed here are only a sample of the many businesses that hire Community College of Philadelphia Allied Health graduates
[4] JHS = Jefferson Health System
[5] TUHS = Temple University Health System
[6] MHS = Mercy Health System

Figure 7 Continued

Methodist Hospital (JHS)	Township Manor Health and Rehabilitation Center
Montgomery Hospital	University of Penn Medical Center (UPHS)[7]
Moss Rehabilitation (JHS)	Veterans Administration Medical Center
Nazareth Hospital	Visiting Nurses Association
	Wills Eye Hospital

In addition, many graduates are working at dental and physician private practice sites, contract food companies, and social and community-based programs, such as Philabundance and the Penn State Cooperative Extension.

Figure 8 contains the annual salaries earned by Community College of Philadelphia graduates shortly after earning their Allied Health degrees. The average salary earned by 1999 Allied Health graduates was $36, 232. Dental Hygiene, Respiratory Care and Nursing graduates were among the highest paid.

Figure 8

Average Annual Salaries Earned by 1999
Community College of Philadelphia
Allied Health Graduates[8]

Dental Hygiene	$44,253.09
Respiratory Care	$38,728.36
Nursing	$37,533.72
Radiologic Technology-Diagnostic Medical Imaging	$31,711.55
Dietetic Technician	$26,249.75
Medical Laboratory Technology	$25,672.40
Health Information Technology	$23,773.17
Medical Assisting and Office Management	$22,355.41
Overall Average	$36,231.65

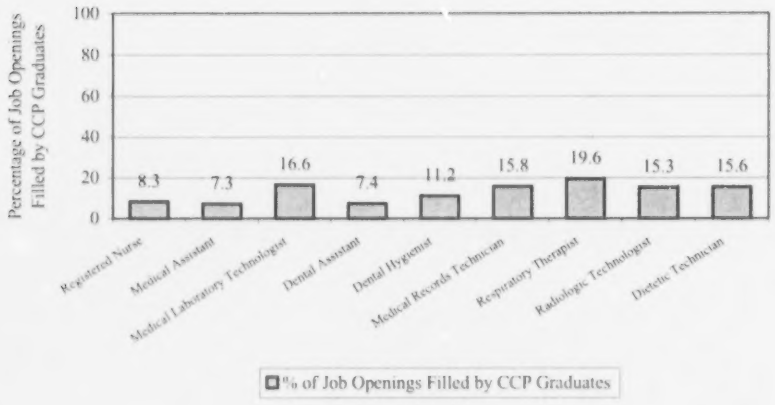
Community College of Philadelphia Allied Health graduates have been a critical source of employees for the Philadelphia Metropolitan Area health care network. Figure 9 contains the estimated percentages[9] of annual occupational openings filled by Community College of

[7] UPHS = University of Pennsylvania Health System
[8] Salaries are based on graduates that reported working at least thirty hours per week and are based on salaries earned 9 months following graduation.

Philadelphia Allied Health graduates over the last seven years. These percentages ranged from 7.3% for the Medical Assistants field to 19.6% for the Respiratory Therapist area.

Figure 9

Philadelphia Region Allied Health Job Openings Filled by CCP Graduates From 1994 to 2000



Occupation	Total Number of Job Openings	Total Number of Job Openings Filled by CCP Graduates
Registered Nurses	9583	795 (8.3%)
Medical Assistants	1722	126 (7.3%)
Medical Laboratory Technologists	658	109 (16.6%)
Dental Assistants	1407	104 (7.4%)
Dental Hygienists	1127	126 (11.2%)
Medical Records Technicians	826	130 (15.8%)
Respiratory Therapists[9]	658	129 (19.6%)
Radiologic Technologists	952	146 (15.3%)
Dietetic Technicians	315	49 (15.6%)

[9] In a study conducted several years ago by the Respiratory Care program, it was learned that half of the respiratory Care department heads in the City were graduates of the College's program.

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Initiatives with Special Impact on the Community

Community College of Philadelphia has committed itself through its educational programs and services to addressing a wide range of special needs in the City of Philadelphia. The Colleges' Allied Health programs make unique contributions to the community. In addition to attending classes, Allied Health students participate in clinical experiences at a variety of health care agencies in the Philadelphia area. These experiences not only provide students with an opportunity to apply classroom learning in direct client care situations but also provide them with an opportunity to participate in community service. The following are some examples of the impacts of these experiences.

- The dental clinic at the College's Spring Garden campus provides preventive dental hygiene care to approximately 1,000 patients per year. The clinic services the surrounding community by providing care to clients referred by the City of Philadelphia District Health Centers. The Dental Hygiene Clinic also services the College community by providing health care and dental health screenings to students, faculty, staff, and children from the Community College of Philadelphia's Child Development Center. All services are provided at no cost to the clients.
- All first-year and second-year nursing students, approximately 200 this year, spend two days each week in clinical settings, such as hospitals and community based care agencies. Approximately 13 hospitals / health centers, eight schools, and four community agencies in Philadelphia participated as clinical sites. The student hours, which include supervised delivery of patient care, expand health care service delivery resources.

- As part of their community nutrition rotation, students enrolled in the Dietetic Technician Program, working in collaboration with the Philadelphia Corporation for Aging, are placed in senior citizen centers throughout the City. During their rotation, students perform nutrition screenings and provide nutrition education. Additionally, in the spring semester of each academic term, senior citizens and day care children are invited on campus for a nutrition education program. This activity includes a meal that is planned, prepared, and served by students in the program.
- Over the last several years, the Zip Code Nursing Project has provided health promotion, health education and preventative services to targeted populations in community agencies within the Philadelphia neighborhood shared by the Colleges' Spring Garden Street campus. During a recent semester, approximately 200 second-year nursing students provided health promotion, disease and prevention services to approximately 5700 individuals in community agencies.
- For the second year, the Dietetics Department in collaboration with the Archdiocese of Philadelphia was awarded a grant for a Nutrition Awareness Project funded by United States Department of Agriculture. The purpose of the project is to establish a two-tiered nutrition awareness program focusing on increasing the selection and consumption of targeted foods to food stamp eligible recipients. In spring 2000, approximately 360 children participated in nutrition programs presented by nutrition aides. The nutrition aides are dietetic students who are trained and monitored by faculty of the College. The project is projected to reach 4500 children during the school year and 3000 children during the summer.

- The College offers a non-credit evening program for working individuals who want to become certified as Dietary Managers. This 20-year old program has enabled nearly 400 individuals to advance their careers and employment opportunities.
- Students in the Diagnostic Medical Imaging Program participate in seven Clinical Education courses in which they have the opportunity to interact with patients in affiliate hospitals. A total of over 1600 hours is devoted to Clinical Education.
- Students in the Clinical Laboratory Technician Program participated in several Health Fairs doing Diabetes Screenings for the College population. Several students and staff members who were not aware that they had diabetes were referred to follow up with their physician.